20th CENTURY STUDIOS

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PLANET OF THE APES VERSUS FANTASTIC FOUR

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TRUJILLO
DI VITO
ARCINIEGA

APE CITY IS IMPERILED!

WE MUST HURRY TO REVERSE OUR *HORRID* TRANSFORMATIONS, REED RICHARDS. BUT CAN YOU ASSURE US THAT THIS PROCESS IS SAFE?

NO, DR. ZAIUS.

BUT WE HAVE TO TRY.

THIS DEVICE SHOULD TRANSFER THE COSMIC ENERGY FROM THE TARGET TO THE WEARER VIA TOUCH.

AND WE'LL BE RESTORED TO OUR FORMER SELVES! *INTRIGUING.*

THAT'S EASY ENOUGH FOR THE REST OF US, BUT HOW IS *JOHNNY* GOING TO GET TO GENERAL URSUS?

HE'LL TURN THE KID INTO ASHES!

JUST POINT ME AT THAT *DUMB GORILLA!*

I CAN HANDLE HIM!

VERY WELL. WHO WANTS TO GO FIRST?

C'MON, DOC! LET'S TANGO!

YOU SURPRISE ME, HUMAN.

OH YEAH?

YOU SPEAK OF THIS MONSTROUS FORM AS IF YOU MISS IT.

THE OTHER HUMANS CAN PASS AS NORMAL, BUT WHY WOULD YOU WALK *SO WILLINGLY* INTO THIS BURDEN?

YOU'VE GOT THINGS A LITTLE MIXED UP, WHICH I GUESS MAKES SENSE HERE.

I'M NOT DOING THIS FOR ME, *I'M DOING THIS FOR YOU.*

THIS IS *MY* BURDEN, AND I WOULDN'T WISH IT ON MY WORST ENEMY!

BUT THE WAY YOU'RE TREATING ME, I MIGHT RECONSIDER!

ONE ALMOST MISTAKES YOUR FOOLISHNESS WITH *HONOR*, BENJAMIN.

SO, ARE WE DOIN' THIS OR WHAT?!

An unknown planet in the far reaches of space is home to an advanced society of apes who walk, talk, and act like humans. Scientists DR. ZAIUS, DR. ZIRA, and her fiancé, DR. CORNELIUS, use the primitive, mute human population for scientific study and menial labor on the PLANET OF THE APES.

PLANET OF THE APES VERSUS FANTASTIC FOUR

After braving the unknown terrors of outer space, a quartet of explorers were changed by cosmic rays into something more than merely human! Now MR. FANTASTIC, THE INVISIBLE WOMAN, THE HUMAN TORCH, and THE THING are the FANTASTIC FOUR, and the world will never be the same again!

The RED GHOST and his SUPER-APES invaded the FANTASTIC FOUR's headquarters in search of the DI-QUANTUM STABILIZER. The Red Ghost activated the device and transported himself and the Fantastic Four to the PLANET OF THE APES! After arriving, the Fantastic Four found their powers mysteriously transferred to DR. ZAIUS, DR. ZIRA, DR. CORNELIUS, and GENERAL URSUS. The FF and apes are now working together to restore the heroes' powers and send them home.

Meanwhile, the Red Ghost has allied himself with DOCTOR DOOM and General Ursus. The trio stirred up a rebellion within ape society. They then attacked PRESIDENT GAIUS, wiping his memory, and now stand poised to seize control of the Planet of the Apes!

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FANTASTIC FOUR CREATED BY **STAN LEE** & **JACK KIRBY**

HEAR ME NOW, CITIZENS OF APE CITY!

THIS *WEAK REBELLION* HAS BEEN CRUSHED UNDER MY POWER!

URSUS!

URSUS!

URSUS!

URSUS!

URSUS!

URSUS!

STILL, THE REASONS FOR THE UPRISING WERE *JUST!* WE HAVE PUT THE NEEDS OF THE HUMANS BEFORE OUR FELLOW APES. *NO MORE!*

WE CANNOT ALLOW THIS BROKEN SYSTEM TO EXIST ANY LONGER!

UNTIL THE HUMAN INFESTATION HAS BEEN FULLY DEALT WITH, *I ALONE SHALL RULE APE CITY AS YOUR NEW LEADER!*

PRESIDENT GAIUS HAS PROVEN USELESS IN CURBING THESE THREATS.

NOW FREE THESE *NOBLE FARMERS,* AND HAND THEM A RIFLE!

FIGHT WITH US. WE MUST ELIMINATE THE HUMAN THREAT *TOGETHER!*

URSUS IS A MORE EFFECTIVE SPEAKER THAN I WOULD HAVE IMAGINED. HE'LL MAKE AN ***EXCELLENT PUPPET.***

YET YOU ALLOW PRESIDENT GAIUS TO LIVE, IVAN. ARE YOU NOT CONCERNED THE ORANGUTAN WILL REMEMBER URSUS IS ***CONSPIRING*** WITH A HUMAN?

NYET, DOOM. NYET.

MY ***NEURAL DISRUPTOR*** WILL MAKE OUR CONFRONTATION WITH GAIUS SEEM LIKE A DREAM--***A FALSE MEMORY.***

BESIDES, HE MAY PROVE USEFUL IN MY NEW EMPIRE.

THERE IS NO SOLACE, NOR COMFORT, TO BE FOUND IN THIS HELLISH PLACE.

YOU MAY HAVE WON THE WAR, BUT MAINTAINING AN EMPIRE OF THE DAMNED WILL PROVE MORE DIFFICULT.

BAH! YOU LACK THE ***VISION*** FOR WHAT I AM BUILDING HERE.

AND DOES RICHARDS ***ALSO*** LACK THIS VISION?

KABOOM!

CALL FOR REINFORCEMENTS!

SIGH

THEY'RE HERE, AREN'T THEY...

"...THE FANTASTIC FOUR?!"

DOES EVERYONE KNOW THE PLAN?

SURE DO, STRETCH! IT'S CLOBBERIN' TIME!

FWOMP!

THERE MUST BE HUNDREDS OF SOLDIERS HERE!

NUMBERS DON'T MEAN NOTHIN' NOW THAT I'M BACK TO MY BEAUTIFUL SELF!

SLAM!

AGH!

NOW, WHERE'S URSUS?

I'M READY!

JOHNNY, WAIT FOR US!

NO WAY, REED!

URSUS HAS MY POWERS, AND I WANT 'EM BACK!

YOU FIND THE RED GHOST! WITHOUT HIM. WE'LL NEVER MAKE IT HOME!

BUT *I* HAVE UNFINISHED BUSINESS HERE!

THE PATH LOOKS CLEAR, ZIRA.

BE CAREFUL, CORNELIUS. THERE ARE GUARDS EVERYWHERE!

I WILL NOT BE DETERRED. PRESIDENT GAIUS IS THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN BRING ORDER TO THIS CHAOS!

DOCTOR, NO!

IF THE SOLDIERS FIND YOU, THEY'LL--

LOOK TO ME FOR WISDOM.

YOURSELVES, HOWEVER...

I SUGGEST YOU TWO FIND SHELTER, AND *QUICKLY.*

I WOULD HATE FOR YOU TO BECOME *CASUALTIES* IN THIS WAR.

NO, WE CAN'T HAVE THAT. CAN WE, COMRADE?

NOW DROP THE WEAPONS. ALL OF YOU.

ZIRA, STAY BACK!
SO YOU'RE THE ONE THE HUMANS WARNED US ABOUT.
THE RED GHOST.
YES, I'M THE ONE WHO STRANDED THE FANTASTIC FOUR ON YOUR WORLD.
I AM THE ***BRAVE CONQUEROR*** WHO WILL ELEVATE THIS PLANET TO NEW HEIGHTS!
AH, MY TRUSTED LIEUTENANTS.
PEOTOR, IGOR! DEAL WITH THESE SAVAGES.
WELL?
DID YOU TWO HEAR ME?
WHAT HAS GOTTEN INTO YOU TWO?
OBEY YOUR MASTER!
NO!

I--I--
HOW DARE YOU?!

MIKHLO!
DEAL WITH THESE TRAITORS.

ARGH!

WHACK!

IT'S LIKE THE SACRED SCROLLS COMMAND, "COMRADE."

"APE SHALL NOT KILL APE."

AND YOU ARE NO APE.

BRAK BRAK BRAK

MY WORD, HE'S DISAPPEARING!

YOU MEAN *RETREATING!*

A *HUMAN* WEAPON?

THANK YOU, MY FRIEND.

AS I SAID, YOU TWO FIND SAFETY. THE REST OF US WILL SPLIT UP AND SEARCH FOR PRESIDENT GAIUS.

DO YOU KNOW WHERE HE IS?

AH.

EXCELLENT.

NO LONGER WILL WE TOLERATE THE HUMANS' *DISGUSTING* WAYS.

ERADICATE THEM ALL AT ONCE!

BANG!

HNN!

WHO DID THAT?!

RIGHT UP HERE!

CLIMB UP AND GET ME IF YOU WANT ME SO BADLY!

NO NEED.

FWGOOOSH!

NICE TIN CAN YOU'RE WEARING, GENERAL!

WHAMP!

CAN'T SAY IT'S THE MOST ORIGINAL LOOK THOUGH!

FWG OOSH!

I FEAR NOTHING FROM YOU!

WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT.

WOOOOOOOOOOOM!

AGGGHG!

AHGHG!

MISERABLE HUMAN...

HEH.

SOLDIERS, KILL HIM!

FLAME ON.

WHAT?

FLAME ON!

NOOOOO!

HOW?!

SOMEONE, PLEASE!

DON'T WORRY, PRESIDENT GAIUS.

I'LL FREE YOU, BUT YOU MUST EXPLAIN EVERYTHING TO ME.

WAS IT THE RED GHOST WHO IMPRISONED YOU?

I...CAN'T TELL WHAT WAS REAL AND WHAT WAS A DREAM.

PLEASE, YOU MUST REMEMBER!

ALLOW ME TO EXPLAIN FOR HIM, DOCTOR...

...THE RED GHOST USED THE WEAPON YOU BRANDISH TO ***ERASE THE PRESIDENT'S MEMORY.*** WITH IT, HE HOPED TO CONTROL THIS PITIFUL WORLD FROM THE SHADOWS.

HOWEVER, YOUR PRESENCE INDICATES TO ME THAT THE PLAN HAS FAILED. UNSURPRISINGLY SO.

BUT PERHAPS THIS IS AN ***OPPORTUNITY.*** KILL PRESIDENT GAIUS AND ASSUME YOUR RIGHTFUL PLACE AS LEADER!

NEVER.

I AM *HONOR BOUND* TO FOLLOW OUR PRESIDENT. TO UPEND APE SOCIETY AS THE RED GHOST HAS IS TANTAMOUNT TO MURDER.

HONOR, *EH?*

YOU SURPRISE ME. THAT YOUR FANATICAL SOCIETY--WITH ITS *FALSE GOD*--IS CAPABLE OF SUCH A CONCEPT IS ADMIRABLE.

"FALSE GOD"?

YES, THE *LUDICROUS* HOLY FIGURE YOU HAVE DEVOTED YOUR LIFE TO.

IF ONLY YOU KNEW WHAT *TRUE* POWERS, WHAT PRIMORDIAL FORCES--

HERESY!

SMASH!

BY THE SACRED SCROLLS!

I WISH YOU HAD NOT DONE THAT, DOCTOR...

I THOUGHT YOU WERE MORE CIVILIZED THAN THAT.

A DOOMBOT!

OF COURSE VICTOR WOULD WANT TO GET IN ON THIS--ALL WITHOUT RISKING HIS OWN NECK!

ZAIUS, STAND BACK. LET US HANDLE THIS.

GLADLY!

CRACK!

DON'T SAY I NEVER GAVE YOU NOTHIN', ZAIUS!

SO *THAT'S* HOW THE RED GHOST WAS ABLE TO TRAVEL HERE WITHOUT THE DI-QUANTUM STABILIZER!

DOOM MUST HAVE BUILT ONE FOR HIM!

I WILL DEFEAT YOU, RICHARDS...

THEN WE CAN USE THE DOOMBOT'S COORDINATES TO GET HOME.

GATHER THE SUPER-APES!

THAT SHOULD ABOUT DO IT.

NOW WE CAN FINALLY GO HOME.

I CAN'T APOLOGIZE ENOUGH FOR WHAT WE'VE DONE TO YOUR WORLD, BUT PERHAPS WE WERE STRANDED HERE FOR A REASON.

TO SHOW YOU HUMAN ***COMPASSION***, HUMAN ***JOY***, AND PERHAPS EVEN ***CAMARADERIE*** BETWEEN OUR SPECIES?

YOU WILL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN, SUSAN.

YOU AND BRIGHT EYES MAY HAVE CHANGED MY MIND ON HUMANS ENTIRELY!

AND WHAT ABOUT THE GORILLA? AREN'T YOU AFRAID HE'S GOING TO STAY A THORN IN YOUR SIDE?

WITHOUT JONATHAN'S ABILITIES, URSUS ONLY HAS ONE THING TO RELY ON: ***FEAR***. HE WILL NO LONGER BE A CONCERN.

THEN THAT SETTLES THAT.

BUT WHAT ABOUT THE RED GHOST? HE'S STILL OUT THERE.

IT'S NEVER THAT EASY TO GET RID OF IVAN. I KNOW WE'LL SEE HIM AGAIN.

STAND BACK. YOU'LL NEED TO BE CLEAR OF THE TELEPORTATION FIELD.

UNLESS ONE OF YOU WANT TO TAG ALONG!

TRAVEL TO YOUR WORLD? IT IS *INTRIGUING...*

WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, MY LOVE, THAT SOUNDS *DREADFUL!*

WE WILL RETURN SOMEDAY TO SET THINGS RIGHT. HOW YOU TREAT HUMANS ON THIS WORLD IS UNJUST, AND YOU KNOW IT.

YOU CANNOT CHANGE WHAT IS IN THE HEARTS OF THE APES, REED RICHARDS. YOUR OPTIMISM WILL SERVE YOU NO GOOD HERE.

FOR YOUR SAKE, I HOPE WE NEVER MEET AGAIN.

THAT JOHNNY WAS ABSOLUTELY *HIDEOUS,* WASN'T HE?

BLOOP

AND SO THIS BIZARRE CHAPTER IN THE LIVES OF OUR HEROES COMES TO A CLOSE.

AS THE WATCHER I HAVE WITNESSED MANY SUCH ADVENTURES, THOUGH FEW HAVE PROVEN AS EVENTFUL AS WHAT TRANSPIRED ON THE PLANET OF THE APES!

THE FANTASTIC FOUR WERE ABLE TO GET HOME, BUT TO RETURN TO THE PLANET OF THE APES PROVED *IMPOSSIBLE.*

"REED WOULD BE HAUNTED BY THE UPSIDE-DOWN WORLD HE AND THE OTHERS HAD WITNESSED.

"AND HE WOULD SPEND MANY SLEEPLESS NIGHTS WONDERING IF THAT PLACE WAS *HIS* EARTH OR JUST ONE OF INFINITE POSSIBLE FUTURES.

"AND THE RED GHOST, WHO WANTED NOTHING MORE THAN TO RULE OVER THE APES...

"...HE FOUND HIMSELF UNABLE TO ESCAPE!

"CORNELIUS AND ZIRA WENT ON TO SUFFER THE SAME FATE AS THE REST OF APE CITY.

"COLLECTIVE AMNESIA.

"THE MEMORY GUN WOULD RESTORE APE SOCIETY, OR SO DR. ZAIUS THOUGHT.

"AFTER ONE FINAL SHOT, THERE WAS *NO POWER LEFT.*

"DR. ZAIUS ALONE WOULD BE CURSED TO REMEMBER *THE TRUE POTENTIAL OF HUMANITY.*

CLIK CLIK CLIK

"ON HIS EARTH, IN HIS TIME, VICTOR VON DOOM TOOK TO HEART THE LESSONS HE LEARNED FROM HIS DOOMBOT'S TRANSMISSIONS.

"AN ***UNBELIEVABLE WORLD*** THAT HE BELIEVED EARTH WAS ONLY ON THE PRECIPICE OF. IT RAISED SO MANY QUESTIONS.

"THE ANSWERS TO WHICH WOULD REQUIRE FURTHER STUDY.

"AND MORE ***SPECIMENS.***"

IS HUMANITY'S TIME AS THE DOMINANT SPECIES SHORT-LIVED?

THE UNIVERSE IS INFINITE, ***AND SO ARE ITS FUTURES.***

"ALL YOU CAN DO IS LOOK AHEAD.

"AND PREPARE FOR THE IMPOSSIBLE."

END!

PARCELS OF THE APES

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C.B. CEBULSKI

We've reached the epic end of our story, but we still have some letters to share from you all below!

When I first heard about PLANET OF THE APES VS. FANTASTIC FOUR, my inner simian emitted gleeful hoots as if millions of bananas rained torrentially like manna from heaven. Seriously, award promotions to the team who developed this idea; concept instantly sold—and issue #1 promises high entertainment for future chapters!

Stripping our heroes' powers and transferring them to Dr. Zira, Dr. Cornelius, Dr. Zaius, and General Ursus communicates an effective, attractive complication. Further, although cliché, Doctor Doom, teased via typical fashion, will buttress the already drastic monkey wrench (ha!).

Matthew J.G. Norsa
Sydney, Australia

Thanks for the (quite eloquently worded!) support and enthusiasm, Matthew! We hope the rest of the issues lived up to your enjoyment of issue #1.

Just got done reading and oh my. As a product of the early '70s and growing up reading the best comic in the world and watching the POTA movies, all I have to say is wow. Great art; great cover by Greg Land. Met him last year at a con, and I hope others get to. Very nice guy. The story is written very well. Can't wait to see where this goes. The Red Ghost and Doctor Doom teaming up—fantastic. So glad this mash-up has come to be. Whoever needs to be patted on the back. I love it. So until Doctor Doom takes control of this new world—may not be long, haha—Make Mine Marvel!

Kevin McKee
Jonesboro, Arkansas

This series has been a team effort, as always—so pats on the back all around! A lot of fans were concerned that Red Ghost would not play a role in the story, but Josh wasn't going to let that golden opportunity slip by!

To the Creative Team of this series,

Thank you for a really beautiful first issue. I am certain the rest of the series will have the same exceptional quality as this one. I am grateful you stayed with the characterizations from the original *Planet of the Apes*. Andrea Di Vito's artwork and Erick Arciniega's colors did a wonderful job of capturing both the world of the Fantastic Four and that of the apes.

Then there is the writing. Josh Trujillo managed to include the Watcher, the Red Ghost, and his Super-Apes, and even Dr. Doom in a way that really worked for me. I've been a fan of the Fantastic Four since 1962, when I got my first issue of this unique family. I commend everyone involved for the special care that went into respecting the source material and making the collision of these two stories a really enjoyable reading and visual experience. It is fantasy as I like it.

I know this has gotten a lot longer than I intended, but I want to give a shout-out to the folks at the comic book store, Screaming Monkey (yes, that is the name and there is a story behind it), who made sure I got a copy of this title. If you are ever in Munster, Indiana, it is worth checking out.

With genuine appreciation,
Norm LeClercq

We love a local comic shop, Norm, so thanks for shouting them out! And thank YOU for reading and writing in!

We're out of room—and out of issues, as this is the finale of our series! Thank you all for joining us for this wild trip to the Planet of the Apes and for sharing your thoughts along the way. It's been a pleasure, especially working with our creative team: Josh Trujillo, Andrea Di Vito, Erick Arciniega, and Joe Caramagna. Not to mention Kaeden McGahey, Austin Hatch, and all of our compatriots at 20th Century Studios. I could go on (and on!) so will cut myself off here—but keep your eyes and ears open for some more exciting POTA projects on their way to you soon!

—Martin

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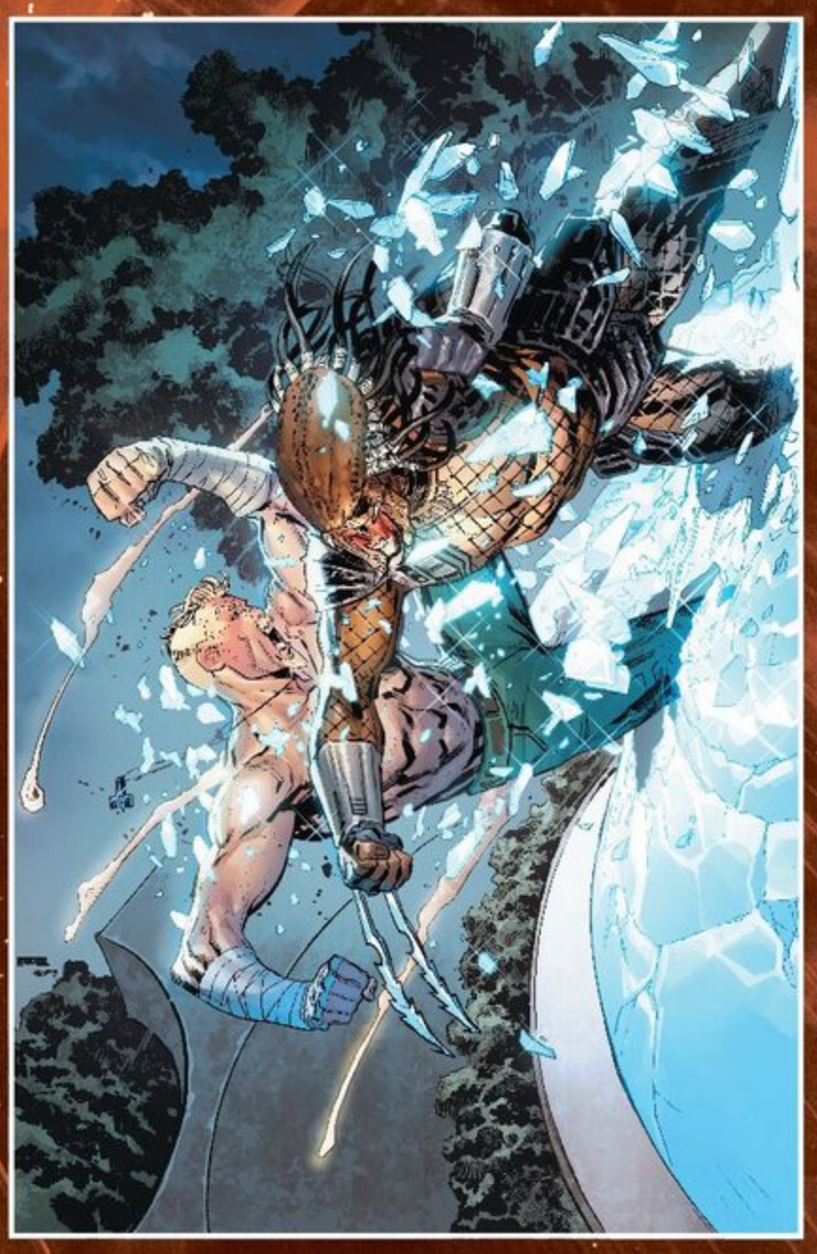
ALIEN: KING KILLER #3

By **SALADIN AHMED, CARLOS NIETO & MICHAEL ATIYEH**



PREDATOR: BLOODSHED #4

By **JORDAN MORRIS, RUAIRÍ COLEMAN, ROLAND BOSCHI & REESE HANNIGAN**

ON SALE IN MAY!

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